Three Human Configurations

A Report on VCP Simulations 8, 9, and 10

Healthy adult | Early-onset Alzheimer's disease | Psychopathy with aggression

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What This Document Is

This is a public summary of three new simulations in the Vector Consciousness Prediction (VCP) series. The full series is part of a relational ontology project, 'The Self-Experiencing Universe' (Lis, 2025), which argues that consciousness and matter are not properties of substances but emerge from relations.

IMPORTANT: This document describes a purely mathematical exercise. The VCP framework measures the density and structure of relations that may be necessary conditions for the appearance of what we call consciousness — not consciousness as a substance that any system possesses. The three parameters — stability, integration, and self-modeling — are assigned numerical values based on published behavioral and neurological research. The geometry that results shows how different systems are from each other, and in what direction.

A note on language: earlier reports in this series used expressions like 'consciousness space' or 'consciousness vector.' These have been corrected following an internal audit. The language used in this document is consistent with the ontological commitments of the framework: VCP measures structural conditions, not a substance called consciousness.

A note on the ethical dimension: the extension of VCP to human clinical profiles raises questions that go beyond mathematics. These are explicitly acknowledged at the end of this document. They were not present when the framework was applied only to non-human animals.

The Three New Configurations

The Healthy Adult

The healthy adult human between 28 and 35 years represents a reference point — the extreme high-r end of the current VCP dataset. The r parameter measures self-modeling: how much the system represents its own internal states and uses those representations to guide behavior. Humans plan decades ahead, evaluate their own cognitive performance, build autobiographical narratives, and model their own minds in the act of thinking about thinking.

This places the healthy human at the highest self-modeling coordinate in the full nine-system dataset. The stability parameter is also very high: human behavioral identity persists consistently over years and decades. Integration is high but — and this is important — not the highest. The brain is modular. The human brain is a coordination of many subsystems, not a single unified cell. Physarum polycephalum, the slime mould from Simulation 7, still leads the dataset on integration because it is physically incapable of being divided into independent subsystems.

The healthy human's position: one extreme corner of the VCP space. High stability, high integration, maximum self-modeling. The only direction available is deeper into that corner — or away from it.

Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease

Early-onset Alzheimer's disease — diagnosed before age 65, and in rare genetic cases as early as the fourth decade of life — produces a relational profile that is not simply a 'reduced version' of the healthy human. The geometry tells a more complicated story.

Alzheimer's disease destroys three things that VCP measures, but not equally. Self-modeling collapses most dramatically: anosognosia — the medical term for a patient's inability to recognize their own cognitive deficits — is present in the majority of Alzheimer's cases. The internal model of self becomes unreliable and then absent. Behavioral stability degrades severely as episodic memory — the anchor of behavioral identity over time — is progressively erased. Integration diminishes, but more slowly: many neural modules continue to function even as the connective tissue between them weakens.

The result in VCP terms: the vector moves away from the healthy human by one of the largest distances in the full dataset. The distance between a healthy adult and an early-onset Alzheimer's patient is geometrically comparable to the distance between an individual honeybee and its swarm — two systems that, in this framework, represent fundamentally different configurations.

This is not a statement about worth or dignity. It is a statement about what happens, mathematically, to the relational structure of a system when its self-modeling and temporal stability are progressively removed. The structure changes — not by shrinking, but by moving toward a different corner of the space.

Psychopathy with Instrumental Aggression

The third simulation targets a specific clinical profile: psychopathy or sociopathy in which aggression is used as an instrument for achieving goals, arising from absent empathy and disregard for social norms. Neurologically, this profile has been studied extensively. What the research consistently shows is that psychopathy is not a deficit of general intelligence, memory, or cognitive capacity. It is a selective deficit — specifically in the circuits that connect emotional information to decision-making.

In VCP terms: stability is very high — psychopathic personality traits are among the most stable documented in clinical psychology, consistent across time and context by definition. Integration is moderate but selectively impaired in the affective circuits. Self-modeling presents the most interesting picture: the capacity to model one's own strategic position, capabilities, and goals is intact — and in some cases highly developed. The capacity to model one's own emotional states, or to integrate those states into one's self-model, is largely absent.

VCP assigns a single number to self-modeling. It cannot, in its current form, distinguish between 'models itself as a strategic agent' and 'models itself as an emotional being.' This limitation is discussed below.

The Finding That Was Not Expected

The most striking geometric result in Simulations 8-10 is not about the healthy human. It is about psychopathy.

In the nine-system VCP dataset, the configuration that is geometrically nearest to the psychopathy profile — nearer than any other system, nearer even than the healthy human — is the individual honeybee.

The distance between the psychopathic profile and the individual honeybee is smaller than the distance between the psychopathic profile and the healthy adult. The psychopathic human is closer, in the geometry of relational structure, to the individual bee than to the neurotypical member of the same species.

What does this mean? It means that on the three axes the VCP framework measures — stability of behavioral identity over time, degree of unified information processing, and capacity for self-modeling — the two systems land near each other. Both have: high behavioral consistency across time and context; moderate integration (neither unicellular unity nor collective fragmentation); and moderate self-modeling — functional but not reaching the recursive depth of a healthy human or a corvid.

This is not a claim that a psychopathic person 'is' a bee, or has the inner life of a bee, or is morally comparable to a bee. VCP does not make claims of that kind. It measures structural conditions, not substance. What it reveals is a geometric proximity in the space of relational configurations — and that proximity is real, reproducible from the data, and worth naming clearly.

Relational ontology predicted this type of result — not this specific finding, but its form. If what matters for the structure of self-organizing experience is the geometry of relations, not the substrate, then systems separated by evolutionary lineage, body plan, and everything we ordinarily use to classify living things can arrive at similar structural positions. The octopus and the crow already showed this in Simulation 6. The psychopathic human and the bee show it again — from a completely unexpected direction.

What This All Means — Simply

The framework was built to place systems in a three-dimensional space. It has now placed nine of them.

The space has a shape. The healthy adult is in one corner — maximum stability, high integration, maximum self-modeling. The bee swarm is in the opposite corner — maximum stability, minimum integration, minimum self-modeling. Physarum, the slime mould, is in a third corner — maximum integration, minimum self-modeling. These three represent the extreme positions reached by the current dataset.

The human cases add a new dimension to the picture. They show that VCP positions are not fixed properties of species — they are properties of relational configuration, and configurations change. A person can move from the high-r corner (healthy) toward a very different position (early Alzheimer's) over the course of years. The trajectory is not a smooth decline — it is a movement toward a different structure.

The psychopathy finding raises a question that the framework cannot yet answer: what does it mean for a system to have an intact cognitive self-model and an absent affective self-model? The current VCP treats these as one parameter. They may not be. This is a limitation the simulations have revealed — and a direction for future work.

A Note on Ethical Interpretation

The extension of VCP to human clinical profiles requires a statement that was not necessary in earlier simulations.

VCP measures structural conditions. It does not assign value, moral status, or personhood. Geometric proximity in VCP space carries no implication about the moral weight of any system. A finding that one human profile is geometrically near a non-human system does not diminish the dignity or rights of any person. This is not a theoretical precaution — it is an ontological commitment of the framework.

In substance-based thinking, 'measuring consciousness' could easily become 'ranking persons.' In relational thinking, the question is different: what is the structure of relations characteristic of this configuration? Structures are not rankings. The slime mould's maximum integration score does not make it more valuable than a bee with lower integration. The psychopathic profile's proximity to the individual bee does not say anything about the legal or moral status of a person with that profile.

What VCP reveals is geometry. How that geometry relates to value, rights, or moral standing is a separate question — one that the framework explicitly does not answer.

What Comes Next

The central prediction of the VCP series remains unchanged: Sepia officinalis will demonstrate opt-out behavior at approximately 83.6% on difficult trials, compared to 52% for the individual honeybee. That experiment has not yet been conducted.

The human simulations open three new questions. First: can VCP be extended to capture the trajectory of relational change — not just a system's current position, but how it moves through the space over time? Alzheimer's disease is a natural experiment for this. Second: does the r parameter need to be decomposed into cognitive and affective components? The psychopathy simulation suggests it might. Third: what does proximity in VCP space actually predict about behavior? If two systems share a geometric position, do they share behavioral properties on specific tasks?

These are not rhetorical questions. They are directions — some of which may be experimentally testable.

Full technical documentation for all simulations is available through Waldemar Lis directly. Requests for the technical report should not be submitted through public channels.

This report is part of an ongoing independent research project. Full citation: Lis, W. (2025). The Self-Experiencing Universe. ISBN 978-83-968651-8-2. Archive materials: https://archive.org/details/@not_foryou

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